

Alnwick Urban District
Council

Medical Officer's

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

for 1937

ALNWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1937.

GENTLEMEN,

The report for 1937 is an "ordinary" or short report.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Area of the district remains at 4,778 acres.

The Population, according to the Census of 1931, was 6,883. The Registrar-General estimates the resident population in 1937 as 6,888, and I shall take this latter figure as a basis in calculating the birth and death rates for 1937.

The Rateable Value is £38,847, and the sum represented by one penny rate is £154.

The Estimated Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1937 was 1,891, an increase of 36 during the year.

The Social Conditions of the district have not varied in recent years, and exert no particular influence on the public health.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births.

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	100	50	45
Illegitimate	—	1	4

The birth rate per thousand of the estimated resident population is 14.52.

Birth rate, 1936	15.32
Birth rate, 1935	15.54
Birth rate, 1934	16.07

Birth rate (England and Wales), 1937, 14.9.

Still Births.

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	5	3	1
Illegitimate		1	0

Still births, 1936, equal 5.

Rate per total (live and still births) equals 47.6 per thousand.

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	125	65	60

The death rate per thousand of estimated resident population is 18.15, compared with 14.60 in 1936 and 14.67 for 1935. Death rate (England and Wales), 1937, equals 12.4.

There were no deaths from Puerperal causes during the year.

There were 4 deaths in infants under one year of age (all legitimate). Male 2, Female 2.

Death rate of infants under one year of age 40.00 per thousand live births. This compares with 56.60 in 1936 and 27.77 in 1935. Infantile death rate (England and Wales), 1937, equals 58.

There were no deaths in illegitimate infants under one year of age.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages), 15.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), 0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), 0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age), 1.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year requiring comment.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS of the Authority:—

- (a) Medical—One part-time Medical Officer of Health (B. Trevor-Roper, M.B., Ch.B.Vict., M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond.).
- (b) Others—One whole-time Sanitary Inspector, who is also the Surveyor (Gladstone Beaty, A.R.S.I., M.I.M.C.E.).

No changes have occurred in the services provided in the area under the following heads:—

- (a) Laboratory facilities.
- (b) Ambulance facilities. These are adequate for the district.
- (c) Nursing in the Home.
- (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.
- (e) Hospitals : Public and Voluntary.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The provision of houses by the Council and Private Enterprise, and the replacement of slum dwellings with modern houses, has gradually increased the consumption of water until it is now so near the total supply available that it has been necessary to consider further augmentation. A scheme for the supply of more water is in hand. Bacteriological examinations have been made during the year with satisfactory results.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The town is on the water carriage system and although no complaints have been received during the year, the sewage works are out of date and inadequate.

I recommend that the Council obtain expert advice on this matter.

Rivers and Streams.—No cases of pollution have been discovered during the year.

Closet Accommodation.—The whole of the town is on the water carriage system.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—Six condemned houses were found to be infested with bed bugs. Before transfer of the tenants to council houses their belongings were treated with satisfactory results. This work was carried out by the Local Authority.

Scavenging.—This is done by direct labour, each house being visited twice per week, with two motor refuse collecting vehicles, which are specially designed for their purpose.

Sanitary Inspection of the area, summary :—

Description.	Inspections. Made.	Defects Found.	Defects Remedied.
Housing	51	51	51
Water Supply	35	35	35
Drainage	18	18	18
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	35	—	—
Slaughter Houses	50	—	—
Workshops and Workplaces ...	21	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	1	—	—
Petrol Stores	10	—	—
	221	104	104

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.—There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Smoke Abatement.—No cases of smoke nuisance have been reported during the year.

Schools.—All schools are under the jurisdiction of the County Council and are in a satisfactory condition.

Housing.—Steady progress is being made with slum clearance and overcrowding. The tenants from the Clayport North-East Area are all rehoused, the area is practically cleared, and schemes for redevelopment are in hand.

All tenants from Pottergate South Area, The Whinham's Yard Area, The Hotspur Street Area, The Patten's Yard Area and the Clayport South-West Area have been rehoused and work of demolition is proceeding.

Considerable improvement has been made in the position regarding overcrowding. The most of the overcrowding is in the slum areas and is automatically dealt with under slum clearance.

Fifteen new houses have been tenanted with exceptionally large families and care in the letting of houses owned by the Council has corrected many cases.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

1. (a) Total number inspected for housing defects ... 51
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 51

2. (a) Number inspected and recorded under Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 ... 51
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 51
3. Number of dwelling-houses found unfit for human habitation ... 51
4. Number of dwelling-houses found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... Nil.

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority ... Nil.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil.
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By owners ... Nil.
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil.
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By owners ... Nil.
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil.
2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil.

(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
 2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil.
- Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—There are 16 registered cowkeepers in the area. Samples of milk are procured for Tubercular Testing, when requested by the County Council. No cases of milk contaminated with tubercle bacilli have been discovered.

Meat and other Foods.—During the year two cases of unsound meat or other foods have been discovered.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

No vaccinations were performed by the M.O.H. under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917. No use has been made of the Schick and Dick Tests for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1937.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
ACUTE LOBAR PNEUMONIA	2	0	0
SMALLPOX	0	0	0
SCARLET FEVER	4	0	0
DIPHTHERIA	6	6	0
ENTERIC FEVER and PARATYPHOIDS	0	0	0
PUERPERAL FEVER and PYREXIA	1	1	0
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM	0	0	0
ERYSIPELAS	1	0	0
CHICKENPOX	10	0	0
BACILLARY DYSENTERY	0	0	0

No cases of Scarlet Fever from Urban District in Hospital.
 Six cases of Diphtheria from Urban District in Hospital.
 One case of Scarlet Fever from Rural District in Hospital.
 Eleven cases of Diphtheria from Rural District in Hospital.
 One Death.

Fifteen deaths from Cancer occurred during 1937 as compared with eleven for 1936.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 Year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5 Years	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
5—15 Years	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15—25 Years	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
25—35 Years	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35—45 Years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45—75 Years	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	0

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICT, 1937.

Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	Diarrhœa (under 2 yrs.)	1
Other Tubercular Diseases	1	Nephritis	2
Cancer	15	Violence and Suicide	9
Heart Disease	30	Diabetes	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	9	Aneurism	0
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	11	Other Circulatory Diseases	1
Bronchitis	2	Other Respiratory Diseases	1
Digestive Diseases	5	Senility	14
Peptic Ulcer	3	Other Defined Diseases	7
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	1	Measles	0
Diphtheria	0	Gen. Paralysis of Tissue	0
Influenza	3		

SUMMARY.

From the above report it will be noticed that the birth rate is slightly lower than last year, whilst the death rate is increased. The infantile death rate is, however, lower.

Infectious diseases have decreased, this being largely due to the reduction in the Diphtheria cases. Apart from a mild epidemic of Influenza in January, the general health of the district during the year has been good.

B. TREVOR-ROPER,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.O.H.

